

# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 69, ISSUE No. 10

DECEMBER 10, 2008

It's YOUR Newspaper

## Valley Takes Drastic Measures to Fight Money Woes

■ Valley College is planning many cost-cutting measures, including canceling underperforming winter and spring classes.

By ANDY ALCARAZ  
STAFF WRITER

In a move to mend Valley College's budget concerns, the administration has decided to cancel some classes in both the winter session and spring

semester.

The announcement came Dec. 2 at the Departmental Council Meeting where Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo broke the news to all faculty department chairs present.

Mayo said that on Dec. 15, the administration was going to take a look at student enrollment in classes for the winter session and start making decisions.

"We're in a place right now where the things that cost money are the classes," said Mayo. "For winter,

we're going to be looking at single digit classes and advanced classes and weighing them. In January [for the spring semester] we're going to have to do the same thing."

According to Mayo, the decision to cancel Valley's 2009 summer session I "doesn't look like the best thing." The official decision about the session will be made early in the spring. For the moment, the administration, in an effort to lessen the effects of class cancellations on students, is advising faculty to take in more students for winter

and spring terms where they can.

"The ironic thing is that we're getting all of this money for [Prop A/AA/J] projects, yet we're still having to cut classes," said Academic Senate President and Earth Science and Anthropology Department Chair Donald Gauthier. "We can't put 50 students in a class of 40, though sometimes we do that. It's a terrible thing to have to do."

Because of the budget cuts and resulting class

see *Budget* page 2



SIGN OF THE TIMES

JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

A month after the Allied Health and Sciences Building was officially opened, it remains 10 percent incomplete. Items such as photovoltaic panels have not yet been activated and punch list items are still missing. Valley College Administration and URS officials have become increasingly frustrated with contractor FTR's inability to finish the building.

## Bankruptcy and Uncertainty Mar Campus Construction

By ANDY ALCARAZ AND SARAH KNOWLES  
STAFF WRITERS

Despite major building progress throughout the fall semester, construction problems continue to plague the campus. In response, URS Project Manager Jim Rogers proposed a possible termination of the current Allied Health and Science Building contractor.

At a Facilities Master Plan committee meeting last Thursday, Rogers stated that there were talks of replacing FTR Inc., the contractor hired to build the AHS building, because it is only 90 percent complete.

"We've pretty much maxed out what we're going to get out of [FTR]," said Rogers during the meeting. "They'll probably threaten to sue and my response to that is, 'I'll see you in court.'"

According to FTR Inc. Vice President John Saliba, major construction was finished in August leaving only

minor work to be completed which will be discussed at a close-out meeting today.

"That's not a concern for us," said Saliba. "We've completed our part."

The possible firing of FTR is not the only problem that Valley College faces. The construction delays in the temporary library stem from construction being at a "stand still for about one month," according to Rogers. The library construction came to a halt when ModTech Manufacturing and Construction, the corporation hired to build the temporary library, filed for bankruptcy on Oct. 20.

"Students will have to go somewhere else other than the college [library] to do their research," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo at the Dec. 2 Departmental Council meeting. "[Students] will not have the library available not only for the winter, but also for some time in spring."

Rogers assured the administration that "the new contractor [for the temporary library] should mobilize next week." He also said that he expects the temporary library to be complete by Jan. 22 and moved into by Feb. 6.

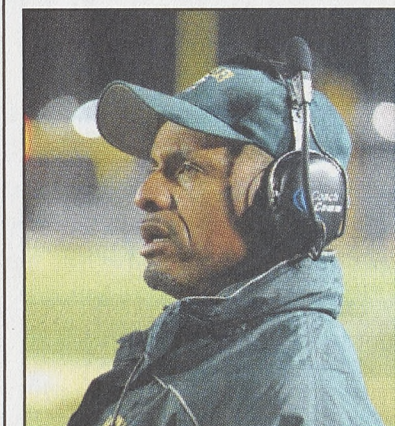
However, as of Friday, no new contractor out of the three possible candidates had signed onto the project. Temporary library Project Manager Robert Pellet said that it could be next week or the following week until a contractor is chosen to complete the job.

The temporary library, which will be located next to the Business Office, has approximately one-third the square footage of the current facility. It will take few weeks to move into, according to David May, the department chair for Valley's library.

The Lab for Academic and Instructional Resources (LAIR), housed in the library building, will also be

see *Construction* page 2

## Monarchs Hunt for New Head Coach



SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR  
**DEMOTED** - Jimmy Sims will no longer be head coach of the football team as of July.

By H. GORE  
STAFF WRITER

Jimmy Sims will be reassigned to assistant football coach for Valley College effective July 1, 2009 after four years as head football coach and coming off of the team's best season since 1997.

"I was actually asked to step down. It wasn't my decision to do that. But I will tell you it was mutual," said Sims. "I've been coaching a long time, 23 years, and I think I could have talked to them about it, especially having a winning season, but it was perfect timing for the both of us."

Sims was named head coach in July of 2005 after the coach at the time, Ron Ponziano, was released. He compiled a record of 12-28 in four seasons, but saved his best for last by going 6-4 in 2008. It's hard to hold Sims' career record against him considering he wasn't supposed to be the head football coach.

"Jimmy Sims was hired here as an assistant coach slash men's physical education instructor," said

see *Coach* page 6

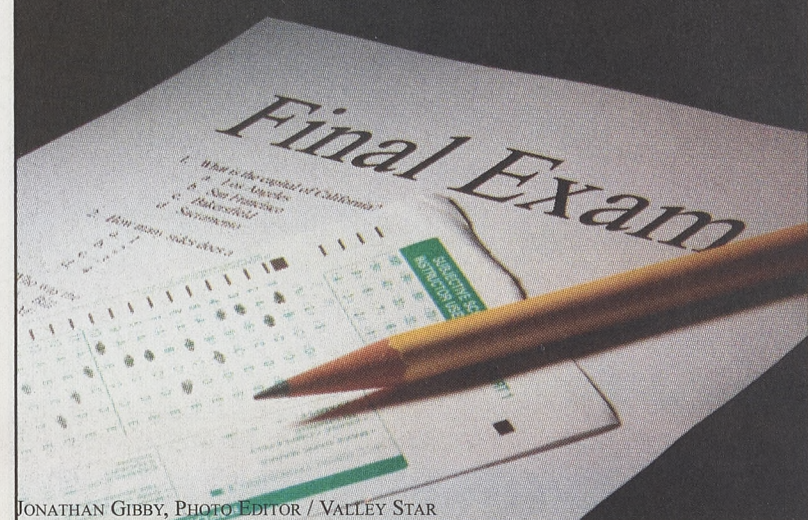
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JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

## Security Grievances Aired by Faculty

■ Frustrations over security on campus are the main talking point during guild meeting.

By SHARON HARDWICK  
STAFF WRITER

Faculty and staff used a recent American Federation of Teachers Faculty Guild chapter meeting to express frustration over a lack of communication by the Office of Administrative Services and the Sheriff's department on issues of safety at Valley College.

Los Angeles Community College District security specialist Jan Allen was invited to the Dec. 1 meeting as head of the Sheriff's Task Force committee, a working group designed to analyze security issues across community college campuses.

The gathering was intended to collect feedback and suggestions about issues of security at Valley. However, it turned into a forum for faculty to voice their displeasure about the Office of Administrative Services and its Vice President Tom Jacobsmeyer, who was not in attendance.

"The district is looking for a list of best practices, but every campus is different," said Allen. "What I'm hearing is that [this campus] is not open to having communication [with the Sheriff's office], except through Jacobsmeyer."

Leslie Hope, a faculty member in the English department, seconded Allen's observation. "The issue is Tom Jacobsmeyer," she said. "You never see him. I think that's a huge problem."

Jacobsmeyer responded on Monday that he is available and open

to communication with faculty and students. He would like to sit down with anyone who has concerns about security to get a handle on the situation.

"Communication is a two way street," said Jacobsmeyer. "[Faculty]

see *Security* page 2



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR  
**SAFETY IN NUMBERS** - LACCD Sheriff Task Force representative Jan Allen assists a group of faculty members identify security related issues during an AFT Guild meeting Dec. 1.



VALLEY STAR STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
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PHOTO EDITOR  
JONATHAN GIBBY

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NEWS EDITOR  
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CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER  
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ADVISERS  
BILL DAUBER  
ROD LYONS

thevalleystar@yahoo.com  
www.lavalleystar.com  
(818) 947-2576

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'Construction'

continued from page 1

moved to a temporary location in Bungalow 85. However, students can only use the lab if supervisors is available, which according to Mayo, Valley cannot afford to hire.

"At the moment that's how it's going to be," said Mayo. "[Until then] we're hoping the Center for Career and Technical Training Lab (CCATT) will be able to handle the load, but students will also have access to other resources at Pierce and Mission College."

Valley President Sue Carleo remains optimistic about work that has yet to be done. According to her, Monarch Square will be complete in about a month.

"This will give back the lovely open-air space for walking and talking in the heart of the campus," she said.

Carleo also stated that the passage of Measure J will give the school the money it needs to create major opportunities for other building projects at the school.

"We are reconvening our Master Plan Group to determine the exact location of the media arts, theater arts, job training, and technology buildings that are now funded by Measure J," said Carleo. "It will take about three years to complete these remaining projects. A few smaller projects may also be decided depending on how far the dollars stretch."

Work on a new Student Services Center will begin in 2009, where many offices such as financial aid, transfer services and counseling will be housed.

"The new Student Services Center will be built on the spot of the Chemistry and Physics buildings," said Carleo. "These two old buildings which were vacated when the new Allied Health and Science Building opened in the fall will be demolished in a month. Construction on the new building will start in January and will take about two years."

Student Union is talking about taking a trip to Sacramento to lobby against the legislature's plans to decrease funding for the California Community Colleges.

"They need to stop cutting our budgets," said ASU President Josh Wible, who states the trip is still very much in its preliminary stages. "We're working on the specifics [of the trip], but the agenda is that we need to remind them how large [the student body] is and that we don't want anymore budget cuts in the school system. We don't want to be on the chopping block anymore."

'Security'

continued from page 1

are sitting and complaining about it, and they're free to do that, but I can't absorb complaints through the air. I'm completely open to what they have to say. Plus, we put out emails to campus constantly."

Faculty members voiced concerns over issues such as uneven responses to requests for escorts for students at night, inadequate training for security personnel, the general inapproachability of the Sheriff's department and inadequate lighting at night.

**"They know we are here 24/7 and feel as if it our responsibility...We want to make sure the campus is lit...But we can't go out and there and change lightbulbs ourselves."**

- Valley College Deputy Sheriff  
Rick Baker

Jacobsmeier and Deputy Rick Baker said lighting problems are neither a budget issue nor the responsibility of the Sheriff's department to fix. The college's Maintenance and Operations department handles those requests and can be contacted directly by staff and faculty.

"They know we're here 24/7 and feel as if it is our responsibility," said Deputy Sheriff

Rick Baker. "We want to make sure the campus is lit, so when we hear about it we address it with the Maintenance & Operations department. But we can't go out there and change lightbulbs ourselves."

Valley is in the process of upgrading its lighting system through the bond measure. Lighting in the parking lots will be revamped in the new year, with an expected completion date of March 2009.



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR  
**SECURITY AN ISSUE** - Darrell Eckersley addresses his fellow AFT faculty guild members during a meeting Dec. 1.

As far as training of police employees are concerned, Deputy Baker made it clear that although security officers undergo a training period geared specifically to campus law enforcement, he would like to hear any and all complaints regarding his staff.

"Security officers are put through a 5-6 week academy and trained specifically to work on college campuses," said Baker. "They are trained in a variety of tactics, including weapons training. They do not have the same peace officer powers as the deputies but they are trained to be campus officers. But if there is a training issue, I would like to know."

Cadets are the interns of the police force. They are employees of the college but managed by the Sheriff's office. Their most common duties are to lock and unlock doors.

On campus, there are two deputy police officers (brown shirts), 11 security officers (white shirts and armed) and 11 cadets (blue shirts). Anytime an incident is reported, it is input into the crime log at the Sheriff's office. Crime statistics are available on the Sheriff Department Website.

"The Sheriff's office and Jacobsmeier's office work closely," said Baker. "[But] I would like to think that faculty and students can come directly to talk to me. I'm out on foot patrol and try to interact with students and faculty and I've directed my staff to be friendly. I want everyone to feel they can approach us. That's the bottom line."

A Look Back at This Week in History

VALLEY Dec. 15,  
STAR 1960

**Seeing Quadruple** - Valley College theatre was given a new twist, with a one of a kind performance of the one-act play, "The Happy Journey," being staged four times, each by a different performer. "Journey" was a unique play, in that no settings were used, and the actors changed in full view of the audience. The Theatre Arts department planned 'on' doing more performances like

this in January.

**Campus T-P'eed Off** - A 25-foot-high billboard extolling the virtues of Northern brand toilet paper dominated the southwest corner of campus, at Burbank Boulevard and Fulton Avenue. Yet another candidate for what was called "The Battle of the Billboards" since 1957, the sign was the subject of much debate by faculty and students. Kermit Dale, assistant dean of student activities, said that advertising company Foster and Kleiser had apologized for the T.P. signage, saying that "[They] have standing orders not to use these

billboards for whiskey and toilet paper ads."

**Give a Helping Hand** - According to Arline Johnson, dean emeritus of the School of Social Work at USC, helping out those in need in the community is not just a job. The Dean lectured at Valley College as part of Occupational Exploration Series, and told those who attended that her course of work was "A heart warming experience." Johnson also outlined what is needed to become a social worker, such as a bachelor's degree in the area, as well as "A genuine interest in the behavior of people."

FALL 2008 FINALS SCHEDULE - DEC. 15 TO DEC. 18

Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY December 15			TUESDAY December 16		
Time of Exam	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 - 7:55 MW	9:40 - 10:50 MTWR	1:00 - 2:10 MTWR	6:30 - 7:55 TR	9:40 - 11:05 TR	1:00 - 2:25 TR
	6:45 - 7:55 MTWR	9:40 - 11:05 MW	1:00 - 2:25 MW		9:40 - 10:55 TRF	1:00 - 2:15 TRF
		9:40 - 10:55 MWF	1:00 - 2:15 MWR			

Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY December 17			THURSDAY December 18		
Time of Exam	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 - 9:25 MTWR	11:20 - 12:30 MTWR	2:20 - 3:30 MTWR	8:00 - 9:25 TR	11:20 - 12:45 TR	1:45 - 3:10 TR
	8:00 - 9:25 MW	11:20 - 12:45 MW	2:40 - 4:05 MW	8:00 - 9:15 TRF	11:20 - 12:35 TRF	1:45 - 3:00 TRF
	8:00 - 9:15 MWF	11:20 - 12:35 MWF				

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ILLUSTRATION / EDUARDO HERRERA / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

## Consumerism Conquers Christmas

By SASHA SANTACRUZ  
STAFF WRITER

Charlie Brown summed it up perfectly in the movie 'A Charlie Brown Christmas': "I just don't understand Christmas, I guess. I like getting presents and sending Christmas cards and decorating trees and all that, but I'm still not happy. I always end up feeling depressed."

The holiday season has lost its essence of spirituality and family celebration, making way for commercialization and stressful consumerism. It seems as though every American falls into the same unfortunate but familiar trap: "Would you like to open an account and save 20 percent off your first purchase?"

With a credit card in hand, one-quarter of American consumers are willing to put themselves in debt for fruitless items including lead filled toys, gadgets that are eventually recalled and clothing that becomes an old trend by the new year.

"I don't buy gifts," said Valley College student Carla Cordileone. "It's not what Christmas is about, it's about Jesus being born."

According to Consumer Reports, 23 percent of Americans will not pay off their holiday debt until March or later, equaling \$14.6 billion in interest-accruing debt.

A typical debt accruing day includes waiting in a line that snakes throughout the store,

while listening to the same annoying Christmas song from the previous year.

Shopping centers are overcrowded and a large number of people are sick, resulting in a cold for us all. Children appear from everywhere, like the munchkins during 'The Wizard of Oz.' Unfortunately the children don't show you down the yellow brick road, they just get in the way.

This unpleasant shopping situation is endured for the simple joy of seeing expensive wrapping paper get torn off boxes, resulting in a dissatisfied expression on the face of the ungrateful receiver.

This, along with visiting relatives and working during the holidays can create a stressful

time, rather than a joyous one.

"I stress out about what gifts I'm getting people, being around crowds, parking and those lines," said shopper Angel Plascencia. "The anxiety builds up as Christmas day approaches."

According to the National Mental Health Association, nearly 60 percent of Americans suffer some form of stress-related depression during Christmas as a result of the increased demands of shopping, entertaining and family.

Maybe we could all learn something from Uncle Scrooge, when he was counting his coins, but until then we can only hope that Frosty melts and Rudolph's nose doesn't shine until next year.

## A Tourniquet Applied Too Late

■ With the California economy in debt, Gov. Schwarzenegger has finally acknowledged the fiscal emergency.

By JOE LAFLEUR  
STAFF WRITER

In America there is no greater pastime than procrastination. It's a student's best friend and at the same time, their worst enemy. This year, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger seems to have taken a page from their notes and applied these to his political strategy.

Earlier this year, Schwarzenegger waited until the last possible day to pass this year's budget plan, and on Dec. 1 declared that California, \$11.2 billion in debt, had officially entered into a fiscal emergency.

"Without immediate action our state is headed for a fiscal disaster," said Schwarzenegger in a press release on Dec. 1. "I am wasting no time in calling a fiscal emergency special session. We must act now to address the current year revenue shortfall of \$11.2 billion..."

There's nothing like waiting until the state plummets to the \$11 billion debt mark or "revenue shortfall," as the governor prefers to say, to finally admit that there's something rotten in California. To have declared a fiscal emergency at \$10 billion would have just been cliché and anything less than that would not have made as much of an impact on the public. One must admit that anything over \$11 billion has a certain ring to it that makes it note worthy.

This "immediate action" on the governor's behalf enacts Proposition 58, which essentially means that the California State Legislature has 45 days to pass and send a bill or bills to the governor addressing the budget crisis. This gives the legislature 44 days until they actually have to do work of any sort.

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, if a budget is not passed, California may run out of money as soon as February 2009, and the projected

debt may fall to \$28 billion by 2010.

In an attempt to explain and perhaps reassure Californians, Schwarzenegger made a comparison that offered no answers and calmed no worries. Instead he displayed his ability to ignore his own failures by taking no responsibility.

"Now, I compare the situation that we are in right now to finding an accident victim on the side of the road that is bleeding to death," said Schwarzenegger at a news conference on Dec. 1. "We wouldn't spend hours debating over which ambulance we should use, or which hospital we would use, or which treatment the patient needs. No, we would first stop the bleeding, and that's exactly the same thing we have to do."

**"Now, I compare the situation that we are in right now to finding an accident victim on the side of the road that is bleeding to death. We shouldn't spend hours debating over which ambulance we should use, or which hospital we would use, or which treatment the patient needs."**

- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger

This is impressive. Not only has Schwarzenegger made the cross over from acting to politics, but in his spare time has mastered paramedic procedure, in theory.

Schwarzenegger may have the right idea, however, this state is \$11.2 billion in debt and two months away from running out of cash. He's spent more than hours debating which ambulance, hospital and treatment to use, he's spent months. Thus far he has failed to stop the bleeding and his patient, the California economy, is all but dead.

## Diffusion of Accountability

■ Bad habits by the youth of today must stop before more young people suffer deadly consequences.

By ANDY ALCARAZ  
STAFF WRITER

It's no secret that college students waste their time watching senseless and sometimes grotesque videos on the Internet. Videos like the singing and dancing Numa Numa Kid, the Dramatic Squirel, the light-saber wielding Star Wars kid and Tourettes Guy all rank among the most popular. But this does not mean that every online posting is funny. College students broadcasting their drug induced "trips" is not entertaining.

According to a study from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University, 5.4 million full time college students abuse drugs and alcohol. With YouTube and other video sites, there is a virtual free for all of video postings. Given these facts, it's no wonder so many college students have a desensitized view of drug abuse.

"This culture has a long pattern of numbing ourselves to different things," said Dr. Sally Raskoff, chair of Sociology and Ethnic Studies at Valley College. "What's on the Internet is drug use, it's kind of normalized."

Last month's jarring incident of 19-year-old Broward College student Abraham Biggs, who committed suicide on Justin.tv.com, is a prime example. After overdosing on prescription drugs and lying still on his bed for hours, his viewers blatantly greeted him with message posts that included jests like "Oh, not again," or "People who commit suicide go to hell," according to a Los Angeles

Times article. In fact, it was not until ten hours after Biggs had taken the pills that there were posts stating that the police had been informed.

The lack of accountability put forth is a direct result of the numbing state of apathy toward drug abuse that represents this generation's college students. The numbers speak for themselves. In the same CASA study, one quarter of those 5.4 million drug abusing students fit the medical criteria for alcohol and drug dependence.

**"What's on the Internet is drug use, it's kind of normalized."**

- Dr. Sally Raskoff  
chair of Sociology and Ethnic Studies

"We are losing thousands of our nation's best and brightest to drugs and alcohol," said Joseph A. Califano, Jr., CASA president and chairman, in a press release.

With this in mind, the need for substance abusing students to go back and re-evaluate their positions on drug abuse and Internet broadcasting has never been greater. The social responsibility that comes with the exploits of drug abuse and the internet is too important to ignore. Broadcasting your five minute salvia "trip" isn't entertainment, it's only making a jackass out of yourself for all to see. No wonder people always look so happily confused when they're spacing out.

## CAMPUS VIEW:

Photos by Ana Rosa Murillo/Valley Star

Do you have a lot of experience with binge drinking among your group of friends?



"Most of my friends drink every weekend but wouldn't call it a binge."

-Leah Bassoni  
nursing



"They're pretty good actually. None of my friends are serious drinkers. Nobody is partying every weekend."

-Doreen Rabby-chia  
sociology



"About 30 percent of my friends binge drink. Those people get drunk every weekend."

-Ivan Felix  
english



"From what I know, my friends don't take it to extremes. They're older so they know how to keep control."

-Marcos Perez  
political science

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ms. Knowles,  
I would like to respond to your Nov. 26 article where you claimed that the librarians keep the knowledge of the computers in LAIR as a "dirty computer secret." I would like to set the record straight.

First of all, all the librarians frequently tell the students waiting in line about the computers available in the LAIR computer lab "ten feet around the building." However, many students do not carry their Valley Student ID which is necessary to use the other four computer labs on campus. Hence, they must wait to use the library's computers, which do not require the ID.

Secondly, for many weeks the printer in the LAIR computer lab was not working and the students had to print out their papers. Again, they had to wait in line to use the library's computer and printer. It wasn't until a librarian took the initiative to make the appropriate phone calls and work orders in order to get the printer, in another department, working. This is beyond her duty and actually rests with other departments. But she saw the need with the long lines of students and did what was necessary.

I hope the next time you write something critical you investigate and first interview those you are criticizing.

Thank you,  
Dana Lubow, Librarian

## Re: "Valley - Land of The Brain Dead"

In a day and age where we've actually taken steps forward with tolerance towards race, pre-judgment, and stereotyping, I find it very disappointing when I see biased and unjustified comments in print.

In my opinion, a newspaper has a moral and ethical obligation to its readers. According to the article published last week entitled "Valley: Land of The Brain Dead," the population of the horseshoe consists of black haired and baggy trouser wearing territorial people who are "brain dead."

I've always felt that it is important for journalists to understand their subjects before offering an opinion. I feel like we (the collective body at the horseshoe) were misrepresented by this article, and I want to give the student body a chance to understand us. So, this is our rebuttal. Whether or not you are a friend or acquaintance of anyone at the horseshoe, we would accept you with open arms. The horseshoe isn't a private club; anyone and everyone with good intent is welcome. Contrary to the opinion offered in the piece, this "brain dead" writer, like many others at the horse shoe, is on the deans honor list and a prospective UC Berkeley or UCLA student come next fall.

The horseshoe is a free marketplace of ideas where many different topics, which can range from, but are not limited to philosophy,

sociology, music, and just good old joking around are exchanged. We take pride in being "rowdy" because we are passionate people. If your humor and perspective ideologies don't fit the way we are, you're more than welcome to look the other way. We have a right to sit at that horse shoe just as we have a right to speak freely within the rules of our governance.

There are some great well supported points made in this article about the issues that students face every day on campus.... I only wish that the comments made about the horse shoe were equally supported. If that were so, this letter to the editor would never have been written.

By Arin Adjarian,  
Representing the collective body at the horseshoe

## WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com or call (818) 947-2576.

Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.



LAVC  
EVENTS

Wednesday, December 10

P.E.S.S.A. Holiday Needs Drive for MEND @ (Containers will be located in the Allied Health & Sciences Center) - Contact: pessa.lavc@gmail.com

ASU Toy Drive for Penny Lane @ (Containers will be located in ASU office, Student Services, and LAVC foundation) - Contact: ASU (818) 947-5516

TRIO Toy and School Supplies Drive for Park Hills School (disabled students ages 12 and up) @ (Containers will be located in TRIO Office - Cafeteria 101B) - Contact: Barbara Schneider (818) 947-2483

LACCD Wellness Program Walking Challenge (Team Valley College Walk 2008) - Contact: Katrella C. Walker (213) 891-2040 <http://teams.sparkpeople.com/valleycollegewalk08>

LAVC Bookstore Sidewalk Sale @ 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Monarch Square) - Contact: LAVC Bookstore at (818) 947-2313

Book Signing "Special Delivery" by Steve Sachs @ Noon- 2 p.m. (LAVC Bookstore) - Contact: LAVC Bookstore at (818) 947-2313

Music Department Presents "LAVC Jazz Ensemble - Dr. Woody James, director" @ 1 p.m. (Music Instrumental Room - M112); Free - Contact: (818) 947-2347 View Flyer (PDF)

## Book Review

Sachs' "Special Delivery"  
Not for The Faint of Heart

■ Valley College professor shows that the past can out itself in many a macabre way.

By ASTRID SEIPELT  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The womanly tradition of childbirth is revered in many cultures as a life-changing event, surrounding those involved with joy and hope for a new generation. However, the book "Special Delivery" serves up a sinister tone to this happy event, and those who pick up this dark tone should be strong of stomach to endure scenes of torture blood play, and a disappointing, anticlimactic ending.

Valley College professor Steven Mark Sachs mixes fiction with smatterings of fact in his first published novel. Lisbeth Milliken is introduced as a nurse-midwife with a love for country music who relishes her job of bringing newborn babies into the world. Fastidious to a fault, she tells one patient concerned with the cleanliness of a home birth to not worry, as "I clean everything up. Every last drop!" However, it soon becomes apparent how chilling these words are, as her controlling canine urges Milliken to gather tasty, bloody rewards for them both after each birth.

Sachs, with his background in psychology, human anatomy, and nursing, illustrates each scene for the reader, taking them deep into chilly Connecticut, accompanying Milliken as she goes about her bloody ways. However, his research does not seem to affect his character descriptions, as several of the persons and families in the story are the victims of social stereotyping. This

can really bother the reader, and detracts from an otherwise decent story.

Those students familiar with cultural anthropology will appreciate the research undertaken by Sachs, as he explores 17th century Romania and vampires as a possible source of Milliken's possession. As the book delves further in the nurse's psyche, her evil spirit becomes more apparent, as visions of a murderous, macabre medieval Lady take over her dreams with increasing severity.

After a young girl witnesses the blood-spattered horror brought forth by the possessed woman, Milliken is brought to the attention of the local police, and a noose comprised of new-world detective work and old-world folklore is slowly tightened around her. Milliken is finally caught in a scene of such sexual depravity that readers with either be thoroughly disturbed or want to laugh for its absurdity, and carted off to face judgment in a chilling finale. However, the ending targets an innocent victim and leaves the reader wondering, "why them?"

"Special Delivery" initially pulls the readers deep into the world of Milliken and is hard to put down, but as the story advances, it cries out for resolution sooner rather than later. While the fusion of modern America and medieval history may excite readers with a taste for the unusual, this tale may be too much for the bookworm interested in something more mainstream.

## Valley People



JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR  
HELPFUL AND INSPIRING - Valley student Maria Sandoval finds gratification in being helpful to others both on and off campus.

## Art Imitates Life

■ Valley College student Maria Sandoval won Valley College's Domestic Violence Creative Writing Contest

By LAUREN LEES  
STAFF WRITER

Battered, bruised, broken and lost is the commonality of all survivors of domestic violence. Around the world, women like Valley College student Maria Sandoval, who suffered from abusive relationships are left to fix the jagged pieces of a painful past.

Sandoval survived her relationship, and used it as the basis of her winning essay in this year's domestic violence creative writing contest hosted by Valley's Campus Violence Response Team.

Open to essays, poems, or posters, on the theme "love's not supposed to hurt," Sandoval's winning entry won her a \$200 bookstore voucher and an award from the school. On Nov. 17, she met with chancellor Mark Drum-

mond along with the other winners from the nine community colleges in the district.

Soft spoken and bubbly, the 32-year-old Sandoval first noticed the contest on Valley's Web site, which she almost didn't enter. It was the support from her boss and her overwhelming need to tell her story that gave her the courage to submit her essay.

"I was shocked because I never win anything in the first place," she said. "I was shocked because I didn't do the essay really to win. I wasn't expecting to win, I just did it to tell my story. That's what I wanted mainly."

At 16, Sandoval entered a relationship with a man who would father her three boys, while being physically abusive to her. Fear and loneliness held her hostage during those years.

Pregnant once again, she had enough, ending the relationship. In her last confrontation with him, he broke into her home, and this act gave her the courage to press charges against him, officially terminating all contact.

Five years later, Sandoval attends Valley and works as a medical assistant in the health center. She comes into contact with plenty of students here, finally finding a medium in healthcare to express her desires to help others.

Sonia Nodal, Valley's physician assistant, works with Sandoval. Nodal gave full support to her assistant, acknowledging the potency of her words for someone else in a similar situation.

"It hit the spot with reference to showing whoever is in that situation 'what is the final blow, what does it finally take, when do you get out of this'," Nodal said. "She sends a really important message in each of her paragraphs. If someone can't get out of a situation I think they are going to nod their head and say, 'yes I understand,' and maybe at the end they can say 'yes I can do this'."

Sandoval's sister, Cristina Hernandez, has watched Sandoval enter and finally leave the relationship that left her so broken. Far from feeling pride, Hernandez finally sees her sister as the woman she always knew was hiding within.

"It didn't surprise me because she's always been a really good writer. She has been through a lot in her life and she has always gotten that out through writing," Hernandez said.

Sadly, domestic violence still exists in today's world. According to Bellaonline.com, a Domestic Violence Web site, "Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime."



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MONARCH  
BASKETBALLTHE NEXT  
FIVE

## MENS

Dec. 11-13 - Santa Barbara  
City Tournament, time TBADec. 29-30 - Mount San  
Jacinto Tourney @ Hemet,  
time TBAJan. 2 - vs. Irvine Valley  
College @ Home, 5 p.m.Jan. 7 - vs. Santa Monica  
College @ Home, 5 p.m.Jan. 10 - vs. Glendale College  
@ Glendale, 5 p.m.

## WOMENS

Dec. 12-14 - Moorpark  
Tournament, time TBADec. 18-20 - Antelope Valley  
Tournament, time TBADec. 27-28 - Ventura/Orange  
Coast Crossover @ Ventura,  
time TBAJan. 3 - vs. Moorpark College  
@ Moorpark, 6 p.m.Jan. 7 - vs. Santa Monica  
College @ Home, 7 p.m.Monarchs Victim of  
Pirate Raid at Home

■ The Monarch men's Basketball team have a 6-3 season record after split results against Ventura College and L.A. Trade Tech.

BY H. GORE  
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College men's basketball team suffered an 87-72 home defeat last Wednesday at the hands of the Ventura College Pirates. The loss dropped the Monarchs' record to 5-3, but Coach Virgil Watson believes his team will grow from the setback.

"After we got the lead, we relaxed," said Watson. "We thought 'Oh the game's over because we're good and they're not going to be able to beat us', but they're a good team and they play hard so I think the kids learned a valuable lesson."

The Monarchs started the game well behind the shooting of sophomore wing players Chris Hortzman and Nate Bichara. Both players scored five points in the first three minutes of the game to help Valley take an early 12-2 lead. The tide turned at the mid-way point in the first half when Ventura applied various forms of a press.

Pirates Coach Ned Mircetic, who coaches men's and women's basketball for Ventura, blamed his coaching staff for the team's slow start.

"We changed part of our starting lineup and we just weren't quite in sync with one another," said Mircetic. "Once we got our regulars in, we got a flow to our team, and that flow started off pretty slow, but most of it was due to us coaches making some changes that we really shouldn't have made."

Ventura outscored Valley 43-20 after the lineup changes, and erased the early 10-point deficit to take a 45-32 halftime lead. Pirates' sophomore forward Will Faivae is the emotional leader of the team and finished the game with 13 points and five rebounds.

"I think we played well because we had motivation," said Faivae. "Everyone from Ventura thinks that we're not a good team. They say because we have a girl's coach we're not gonna do well so we want to prove everybody wrong."

The Pirates pushed the lead to 20 with a quick 7-0 run to start the second half. Valley was able to whittle the lead down to eight with 13:56 remaining in the game, but Ventura weathered the storm and cruised to victory.

Nate Bichara was the game's high scorer with 18 points, but Ventura's Prince Abidoye had the most well rounded effort with 16 points, 11 rebounds, three assist, and four steals.

The Monarchs bounced back from the loss with a tight 96-94 victory over Los Angeles Trade Tech at Valley College on Saturday. The win bumped their record up to 6-3. Valley travels to Santa Barbara for the Santa Barbara City Tournament Dec. 11-13.

Game notes: Sophomore post player Andrey Orlov sprained his right knee with 8:44 remaining in the first half and did not return. He also sat out the game against Trade Tech.



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

**ALLEY OOP HOOPS** - Valley College freshman forward Sulaiman Sekamwa has to negotiate a high flying Los Angeles Trade Tech player during the Monarch's closely contested 2-point win at home on Saturday.

Visciglia Adds  
Value to Valley  
Football Squad

■ Fresh out of high school, quarterback Bret Visciglia shows his smarts on the field and in the classroom.

BY H. GORE  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College freshman quarterback Bret Visciglia rounded out the 2008 season by being named the American Division Pacific Conference co-offensive player of the year; an award that seemed unlikely for somebody that hadn't played quarterback in two years.

"I was a backup for most of my high school career," said Visciglia. "As a sophomore I ran the scout offense for the varsity. My junior year I moved to safety and ran the second team for

offense, and my senior year I pretty much only focused on safety."

Visciglia graduated from Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks this year. While there, he watched fellow quarterback and good friend Dane Crist take the position he desired. The experience served Visciglia well as he was prepared the next time there was a QB battle.

The beginning of the 2008 football season was a rocky one for Visciglia and the Monarchs. The team got off to a 1-3 start, and there was a small quarterback controversy. Some of the team was calling for Steve Rimmer to take over the position feeling that a change would turn the team's fortunes. The adversity brought out the best in Visciglia, and with the coaching staff firmly behind him he began his run for the co-offensive player of the year award.

Valley Offensive Coordinator Dameon Porter worked with Visciglia throughout the season to help Visciglia get back into the flow of playing quarterback. Porter feels Visciglia's time at Notre Dame High School and the fact that he's a quick study made the process easier.

"Bret's greatest asset is his intellect and his ability to understand what we throw at him

everyday and being able to run our offense on the fly," said Porter. "He was smart, he got coached really well in high school, and that made it easier for him to digest the playbook."

Visciglia enjoyed his time on defense in high school, but after a season that saw him pass for 2899 yards and 27 touchdowns in 10 games, he seems to have found his calling.

The 19-year-old's development at quarterback, and natural leadership abilities made it easy for his teammates to rally around him. Freshman wide receiver Gerald Scarber was glad the coaching staff chose Visciglia as the starter and says the two had a nice rapport.

"Catching balls from him was good," said Scarber. "At practice we would work on timing and in the games we would read the defense and see what holes we could find, but it was mostly about timing."

**"Bret's greatest asset is his intellect and his ability to understand what we throw at him everyday and be able to run our offense on the fly... He got coached really well in high school, and that made it easier for him to digest the playbook."**

- Valley offensive coordinator  
Dameon Porter

Although football is his passion, and he's a decent golfer, Visciglia is focused on his studies. He's part of the Transfer Alliance Program on campus and plans to transfer in the spring of 2010. Bret hasn't decided on a major but he's leaning towards psychology because it runs in the family, as does attending UCLA.

"My goal for the next year is that no matter what happens in football, that I have the opportunity to go to school based on football and academics," said Visciglia. "My family's always had a close relationship with UCLA. My dad went to UCLA, and my brother's there now. I would like to go there, but we'll see what happens."

When asked about his biggest flaw, the 6-4, 190 pound Visciglia says he needs to gain weight and develop more arm strength. To do this he's working out five days a week, and has a diet that consists of a lot of chicken, steak, carbs, and protein shakes.

The quarterback is the most popular player with the fans just by the nature of the position. Visciglia's two biggest followers are his mother, Lynn Visciglia, and his girlfriend. Both attend every game that he plays although his mom gets nervous watching him play.

"Every mother, when their son's the quarterback, they feel every hit," said Mrs. Visciglia. "You just pray that they get up when they go down, but they do, that's the good part. I'm glad he's very resilient."

## SPORTS OPINION

Just Who is Running  
the Quarterback Show?BY JOE LAFLEUR  
STAFF WRITER

Football - America's favorite sport, where defense wins championships and quarterbacks are used like disposable cameras. No position is more glorified than quarterback, so why is it that a good quarterback is harder to come by than a fan wearing a Michael Vick jersey?

There's the possibility that quarterbacks get thrown into the mix too soon, can't adapt to a faster paced game quickly enough, end up losing and never recover from this football shell shock. Former UCLA quarterback Cade McNown led the Bruins to two consecutive Pac 10 championships and berths in the Cotton and Rose Bowls. After being the Chicago Bears 1999 first round draft selection, his career ended three years later as a member of the San Francisco 49ers practice squad.

This theory is plausible, but with one look at this season's rookie sensation, Matt Ryan of the Atlanta Falcons, you may think otherwise. Thrown into the starting quarterback position in his rookie season, he has carried a doomed team on his shoulders to a record of 8-5.

Another theory is that the growing complexity of offensive systems

has inexperienced quarterbacks begging for the days of back-yard football. Perhaps QBs have to ride the pine and learn from the veterans before they can run the offense on their own. This seems to have worked for the New England Patriots' Matt Cassel, who took a back seat to Tom Brady for three years before he got to prove himself.

Fewer quarterbacks are able to make the leap from college to professional football. Seventy quarterbacks have taken a snap for the 32 NFL teams this season. Standouts in college, they end up equating to nothing, erased like writing on a chalkboard. This results in veterans bordering on retirement getting a second chance. Gus Frerotte, a 15 year veteran is the starting quarterback for the first place Minnesota Vikings and Kerry Collins, now in his 14th season has lead the Tennessee Titans to a 12-1 record.

The concern lies not in the present but in the future. When the Favres, Bradys and Mannings have left us, who will become a great and not just a flare that fades after a season? It is time for the young quarterbacks to hit the books, get over the post-traumatic stress of a losing season and for football's sake, grow a pair. You'll last longer.

## 'Coach'

continued from page 1

Valley Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero. "We got in a pinch when Ron Ponziano was released. Jimmy Sims came through in a pinch for us, acted as the head football coach for three and a half years in a position that he didn't come here to do."

A replacement has not been named, but the school hopes to have a new head coach by February. No matter who the next coach is, Chuck Ferrero believes it's important to acknowledge Coach Sims' contribution to Valley.

"We owe Jimmy a debt of gratitude," said Ferrero. "Now he's able to be re-assigned and go back and do what he was hired here to do which is men's PE slash assistant football coach."

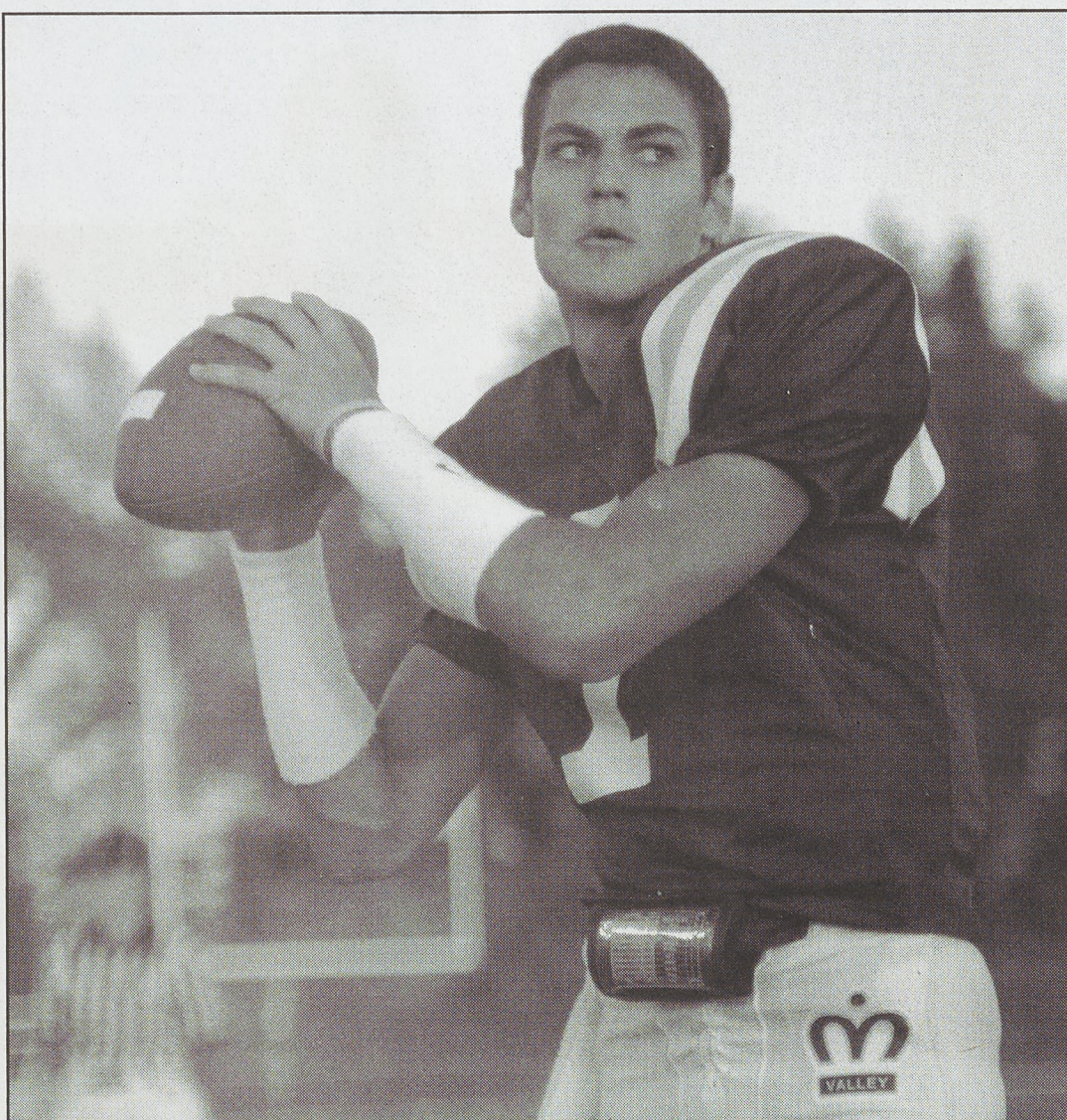
The people most affected by

this change are the 45 to 50 players that are returning next season. However, freshman cornerback Damien ChiSolm is concentrating on next season, not the next coach.

"I feel next year we're gonna be a better team and the program is gonna be better regardless of keeping Coach Sims or him being gone," said ChiSolm. "I didn't know his past at Valley but while I've been here he's been a pretty cool coach."

It would be natural to feel bad for a person that loses a prominent position, but there's no need to worry about Coach Sims. He's looking forward to giving his time and sharing his experiences with the new head coach.

"My gift is helping other people," said Sims. "I think our program needs to go in another direction. I'm gonna be a big time asset to whoever comes in because I learned so much being a head coach."



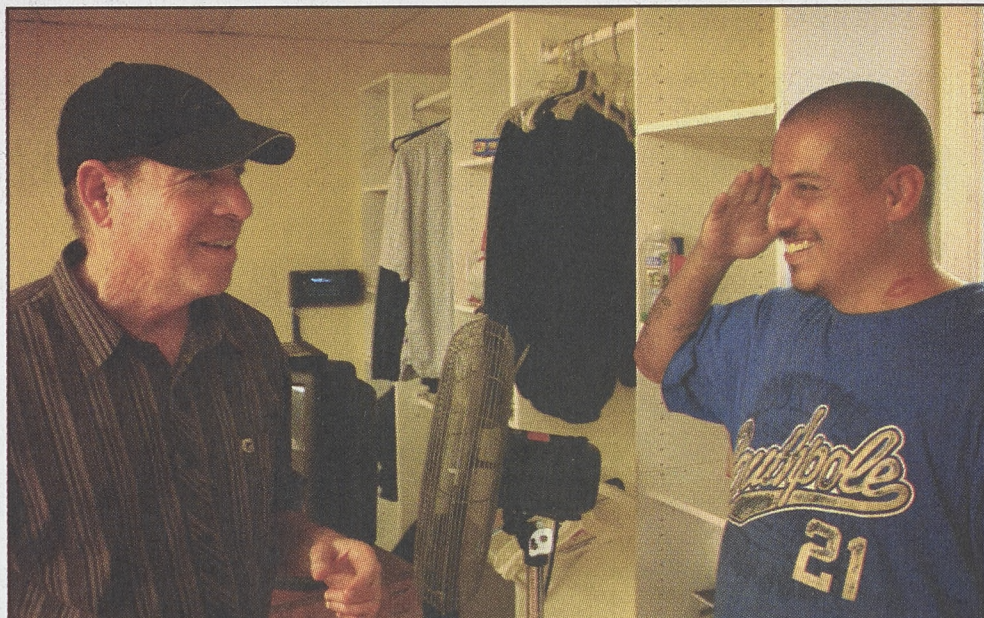
SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

**HUMBLE FIELD LEADER** - Valley College quarterback Bret Visciglia emerged as one of the Monarchs star performers during a winning season that was filled with highs and lows. Visciglia's performance on the field improved with each game and his statistics earned him the honor of Co-Offensive Player Of The Year in the American Division Pacific Conference Honors.





**HOPE IN THE NIGHT** - Residents at the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission listen to ministry supervisor Bob Sobo speak about the importance of saving money during his nightly life skills training.



**FRIENDS**- Alex "The Colonel" Arellano greets Bob Sobo at the beginning of the evening. Alex, his wife and two children have been staying at the mission for three months. He is now in training to become a member of the staff. "They've turned my life around," said Arellano.

## Hope For Newly Homeless Families

KLARA MILLER  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

A young married couple and their 2-year-old son sit in the waiting area of the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission to meet with ministry supervisor Bob Sobo. They are one of the lucky few who have a chance to stay at the mission, which must turn away about 12 families daily due to space limitations. Sobo calls them into his office and begins the interview. The process starts with questions about the family's situation and ultimately closes in prayer.

Bob Sobo's day starts early with a phone call to his night staff to check if there were any developments throughout the evening. He commutes to the mission from his home in Palmdale five days a week. Sobo's duties are diverse; he admits new families, speaks at a nightly life skills training and coaches families on virtually all aspects of their lives. The impact he has on the residents' lives is easy to observe as he interacts with adults and children alike. His smile and efforts uplift the spirits

of all he comes in contact with. Sobo doesn't leave work till after dinner, which is usually served by volunteers.

The San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission is the only emergency shelter for families in the area, with about 11 families a month staying there. The average stay is a few months. During this time, families work on finding employment, developing life skills and the importance of saving. Fifty percent of the population at the mission are children 12 years of age and younger.

During the holiday season, the mission has a toy drive for the Valley's homeless kids.

"We give away about 5,000 toys on Dec. 20 from 10a.m. - 2p.m. We're going to have music, entertainment and lunch," said Sobo. "If people want to donate toys, they can bring them here or directly to the lunch."

The event will be at the Inglesea Luterana San Pablo Church, located at 7400 Tujunga Ave. in North Hollywood. The SFV Recue Mission is located at 13422 Saticoy St. in North Hollywood.



**COMFORT FOOD** - Bob Sobo sits down with the residents to a dinner of fried chicken and mashed potatoes provided by a local church.



**HOMEWARD BOUND** - Children play chase on the playground at the mission. Behind them is part of a mural that is based on drawings made by the children.



**HELP IS HERE** - Bob Sobo looks through the admission paperwork of a new guest. Homeless due to his lifelong alcohol addiction, the man is grateful to have a warm bed and a helping hand.